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# Yeovil Rural District Council.

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## ANNUAL REPORT

— OF —

### THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1925.

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#### NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in Acres) 54898.

Population 17140.

Number of inhabited houses 4406.

Number of families or separate occupiers 4460.

Rateable Value £142,417, sum represented by a penny rate £405.

The amount of Poor Law relief distributed in the Rural District during the year ending December 31st, 1925, £3,180.

#### PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE AREA.

The Northern half of the District is in the plain of the Parrett, drained chiefly to its tributary the Yeo.

The prevailing lower lias in most of the area is covered by beds of gravel, over which a deposit of alluvium, varying in depth from 10 to 20 feet, forms good pasture land for the rearing of stock and production of milk. At Ash and Long Load the lower lias forms two long ridges, and these form a stiff working soil.

The middle lias stretches in a broad band from Rimpton to South Petherton at various heights averaging about 50 feet above the plain, and South of this the upper lias, capped by the Yeovil sands, form an escarpment well defined where capped by inferior oolite. The Yeovil sands provide easily-worked arable lands in the parishes of Barwick, East Coker, West Coker, Odcombe, Montacute, East Chinnock, West Chinnock and South Petherton, the Western portion being more fertile than the Eastern.

South of the Midford sands the rocks are much disturbed and the land is hilly, the valleys running East to West along their lines of strike, and supplying tributary streams to the Parrett. Inferior oolite, Fullers earth, cornbrash, and forest marble are the chief formations. The lands in these parishes are mostly pasture.

*Water Supplies.*—The chief R.D.C. supplies are from springs out of the Midford (Yeovil) sands—Martock, Montacute and Tintinhull being supplied by gravitation therefrom. South Petherton supply is pumped by windmill and oil engine to the reservoir. Ilchester and Northover supply is pumped from a spring tank to the reservoir, the source being Rhoetic beds. This supply is a joint one with the Langport R.D.C. for the parishes of Kingsdon and Somerton. All the waters in the district are fairly hard, and no solvent action has been observed on the lead pipes used for services. All the supplies are constant and are laid on to the several houses or groups of houses.

The proportion of population supplied is approximately—South Petherton 1750/2000, Martock 2000/2100, Montacute 700/740, Tintinhull 450/465, Ilchester 460/464, Northover 50/50.

From the mains of the Yeovil Town Council parts of Yeovil (Without) have a constant supply by service pipes—the proportion of this scattered population being 380/900. Also Preston Plucknett is similarly supplied, the proportion being 200/500. The parish of Barwick, in the proportion of 160 out of 500, is supplied from the Yeovil Mains. The Rural District Council have applied to the Minister of Health for sanction of a loan to complete the supply of the parish from the Yeovil Main. The parish of East Coker is divided into two parts, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile apart. The Southern part (Up-Coker) has a piped supply from a spring tank, supplying the houses by standpipes and services. Coker Court, a farm and two cottages are supplied from the Yeovil Mains, and this supply is used as an auxiliary supply to the local one in occasional dry periods. The other part of East Coker (North Coker) is supplied from a spring tank in the Midford sands. On account of the sale in many lots of a great portion of the houses, the R.D.C. have made provisional terms for the purchase of the supply with  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres of protecting land. An enquiry was made by P. M. Crosthwaite, Esq., M.Inst.C.E., but, owing to the discovery of recent pollution, he could not recommend the Ministry to sanction the loan unless the supply was collected away from the present source and the reservoir or spring tank is made water-tight and increased in depth. The question is still under consideration. This supply is constant and from standpipes with some service pipes.

*Haselbury* is supplied by gravitation from a spring at the base of the Midford sands, constantly by standpipes and some service pipes. The proportion of population supplied being 440/476.

*East Chinnock* has a piped supply from the sands by standpipe and services, to the extent of 200 out of 381 of the population. The agreement (provisional) for the purchase by the R.D.C. of these two supplies is understood to be in course of preparation.

*Stoke-under-Ham*, with a population of 1600, is the only large parish without a public Water Supply, which is sadly needed on account of scarcity in some parts and quality in others.

A scheme, involving a pumping station, reservoir, mains and services, has been submitted to the Ministry, but unfortunately and unavoidably the estimate is over the borrowing powers of the parish. The parishioners are anxiously awaiting the result of an enquiry by an Inspector from the Ministry.

*Private Supplies.*—Most of the villages in the hilly parts of the district have private supplies to the village or chief groups of houses.

*Marston Magna* 140/311 and *Rimpton* 190/234 have a supply air lifted from a borehole in the Marlstone to a reservoir, and thence by 3in. mains through Rimpton to Marston, where the two chief streets are supplied constantly by service pipes. The owner, E. D. Marden, Esq., when the R.D.C. erected 12 houses, extended the main some 500 yards to supply them with water.

*Norton* 300/410 has a constant supply from a spring at the base of the Midford sands by gravitation distributed by mains and service pipes.

*North Perrott* 165/227. Constant supply chiefly from standpipes from a spring tank in Fullers earth rock.

*Chiselborough* 70/262. Pipe supply from spring—constant through service pipes. Remainder of parish springs and a few wells.

*West Chinnock* 100/300. Pipe supply from spring at base of hill, at times not quite satisfactory.

*Hardington* 60/397, *Pendomer* 20/50, *Sutton Bingham* 50/60, have pipe supply from springs to groups of houses.

*Mudford.* Bacteriological examination of many wells are very unsatisfactory. Owing to the scattered and extended location of the various groups of houses, a scheme for the whole parish is impossible on account of cost. Consideration is being given to the possibility of dealing with each group separately.

*Parishes in the plain of the Yeo.*—Chilton Cantelo, Ashington, Linington, Yeovilton and Podymore are supplied by wells. The lower lias is masked in some parts by good beds of gravel, covered by alluvium varying in depths from 10—15ft., from which good water is obtained when care is taken in selecting the position of the well.

Particulars of all water supplies with Hydrogeological map were furnished to the Ministry of Health in 1923.



## MILK AND DAIRIES.

Registered Retailers only	...	...	...	...	7
„ Cowkeepers and Retailers	...	...	...	...	46
„ „ and Wholesale Purveyors	...	...	...	...	344

Registration has been secured by obtaining lists of purveyors from railway stations, and large distributors. The Register is believed to be fairly complete—changes of tenancy and new producers only remaining to keep the register up to date.

There are two producers of Certified Milk in the district, samples from one have been sent to the National Inst. for Research in Dairying with satisfactory results. Samples from the other producer, it is understood, are taken from retailers in London. One retail purveyor of Certified Milk is registered.

No refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or licences for graded milk has been found necessary.

39 samples of milk have been submitted to the County Bacteriologist for examination, with the following results:—4 v. good, 14 good, 6 fairly good, 6 poor, 5 bad, 4 v. bad. The defaulters were written to, supplied with instructions and subsequently visited.

Tests for clean milk were also made in 31 cases by examining the filtering wads used by large collectors, for each of the producers.

The Somerset C.C. hold clean milk competitions for 6 months of the year, in which many producers in the district enter. The Somerset and N. Dorset Milk Recording Society is also doing very good work in the district.

Producers' premises have been visited and detailed instructions given. Generally there is a very satisfactory improvement in the cleanliness of approach roads and cowstalls, and also in the care in handling and subsequent treatment of milk.

New stalls erected 6. New floors and drainage 9. Improved drainage 6. Re-metalling approach yards 11.

*Meat Supply.*—The slaughter-houses of the district are generally suitable for approach, and structurally good, with impervious floors and good drainage. Two with blue lias paving badly jointed are being relaid with Staffordshire buff setts on concrete.

Shops are clean, and where exposed to road dust provided with glazed windows.

Inspections have been regularly made after fixed slaughtering, and notices of occasional slaughtering, chiefly by pig butchers, have been received. Eight notices of casual slaughtering under Section 9 have been received.

Condemned and surrendered meat is buried under supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. All slaughter-houses are licensed, the numbers being:—

1920	...	...	...	...	18
January, 1925	...	...	...	...	23
December, 1925...	...	...	...	...	28

*Bakehouses.*—No underground bakehouses are used in the district, and the structure and cleanliness are generally good.

*Rivers and Streams.*—Streams receiving effluent from sewage works are kept under observation, and three samples have been taken during 1925.

*Drainage and Sewerage.*—The parishes of Martock and Stoke-under-Ham are sewered with sewage disposal by septic tanks and intermittent downward filtration. South Petherton and Montacute are sewered, and the disposal treatment is by defecating tanks and irrigation treatment. Part of the parish of Tintinhull has a similar means of disposal. East Coker is divided into two parts geographically—the sewage of one being by septic tanks and Stoddart filters, the other treated by tanks and irrigation.

The parishes of Haselbury and East Chinnock are also sewered and the disposal system is by land treatment. Hardington has a sewer for the largest group of houses, and the treatment is over land. The remaining parishes, having an aggregation of houses sufficient to form a small village or hamlet, discharge their slop water in the combined road drains.

*Closet Accommodation*—In the four largest sewered parishes W.C's. have been substituted for the former privies or E.C's. generally. The scattered portions of these parishes outside the drainage area continue the privy or E.C. system. In the smaller sewered parishes the privies near houses have been replaced by W.C's. In the smallest and scattered parishes, privies near houses or prejudicial to well water, E.C's. have substituted. Since 1920, 70 privies have been replaced by W.C's. in the sewered parishes, and 50 by E.C's. in the non-sewered parishes. In the district the numbers of each kind are approximately—W.C's. 2000, E.C's. 800, Privies 1150.

*Scavenging*.—In the four largest parishes of South Petherton, Martock, Stoke, and Montacute, and the semi-urban portion of Yeovil (Without) scavenging is systematically carried out. The refuse removed, consisting chiefly of broken utensils, tins, &c. Gardens being general, the disposal of ashes is done by householders. In the smaller parishes practically every householder has a garden or an allotment, if not both.

The cleansing of earth closets and cesspools is done by the tenants.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Births	}	Legitimate	...	...	...	M.	...	...	F.	...	...	Total.
		Illegitimate	...	...	...	140	...	...	151	...	...	291
						7	...	...	7	...	...	14

Birth Rate 17·7.

Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	85	...	...	107	...	...	192
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Death Rate (corrected) 8·68.

Ages at Death.	Under 1 year,	16	30—40 years,	8	70—80 years,	45
	1—10 years,	8	40—50 years,	15	80—90 years,	37
	10—20 years,	2	50—60 years,	19	over 90 years,	3
	20—30 years,	8	60—70 years,	34		

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, Childbirth	}	from Sepsis—1.	
		,, other causes—0.	

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births—52·4.

Legitimate, 16.	Illegitimate, 0.	Total, 16.
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Causes of Death:—Premature Birth, 5; Marasmus, 4; Meningitis, 1; Pneumonia, 2; Bronchitis, 1; Congenital Malformation of Heart, 1; Imperforate Anus, 1; Ectopia Vesicae, 1.

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT, 1925.—Registrar General's Figures.

Causes of Death.						Males.	Females.
1	...	...	All causes	...	...	85	107
2	...	...	Enteric Fever	...	...	—	—
3	...	...	Measles	...	...	—	—
4	...	...	Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	—
5	...	...	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—
6	...	...	Diphtheria	...	...	—	—
7	...	...	Influenza	...	...	5	9
8	...	...	Eucephalitis Lethargica	...	...	—	—
9	...	...	Meningoccal Meningitis	...	...	—	—
10	...	...	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	5	4
11	...	...	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	—	2
12	...	...	Cancer. Malignant Disease	...	...	8	15
13	...	...	Rheumatic Fever	...	...	—	—
14	...	...	Diabetes	...	...	—	—
15	...	...	Cerebral Hemorrhage, etc.	...	...	4	7



<i>Causes of Death.</i>						<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>	
16	...	...	Heart Disease	...	...	16	...	11	
17	...	...	Arterio Sclerosis	...	...	3	...	2	
18	...	...	Bronchitis	...	...	7	...	7	
19	...	...	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	5	...	1	
20	...	...	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	1	...	1	
21	...	...	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum			—	...	—	
22	...	...	Diarrhoea, under 2 years	...	...	—	...	—	
23	...	...	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	—	...	—	
24	...	...	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	2	...	—	
25	...	...	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	1	...	1	
26	...	...	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	—	...	1	
27	...	...	Other Accidents, and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	...	—	...	2	
28	...	...	Congenital Debility and Malforma- tion. Premature Birth	...	...	6	...	5	
29	...	...	Suicide	...	...	1	...	0	
30	...	...	Other Deaths from Violence	...	...	3	...	1	
31	...	...	Other defined Diseases	...	...	17	...	36	
32	...	...	Causes ill defined and unknown			—	...	2	

No unusual or excessive mortality occurred during 1925.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area : These are under the control of the County Council.

*Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.—Infectious Diseases Generally.*

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1925.

<i>Disease.</i>				<i>Total Cases Notified.</i>		<i>Cases Admitted to Hospital.</i>		<i>Total Deaths.</i>	
Small-pox	...	...	...	0	...	0	...	0	
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	7	...	0	...	0	
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0	...	0	...	0	
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid	...	...	...	0	..	0	...	0	
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	
Pneumonia	...	...	...	14	...	8	...	6	
Erysipelas	...	...	...	2	...	0	...	0	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	4	...	1	...	0	

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

<i>Age-Periods.</i>			<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths.</i>			
			<i>Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary.</i>	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...
1	...	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	0	...
5	...	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	0	...
10	...	...	0	...	2	...	0	...	1	...
15	...	...	1	...	2	...	1	...	0	...
20	...	...	0	...	4	...	1	...	1	...
25	...	...	1	...	3	...	2	...	0	...
35	...	...	3	...	2	...	1	...	1	...
45	...	...	2	...	1	...	0	...	0	...
55	...	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...
65 and upwards	...	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...
Totals			9	14	0	2	5	4	0	2

## HOUSING.

*General Conditions.*—During the last 5 years private enterprise has, with the assistance of the Subsidy in 32 cases, resulted in the erection of 125 houses. Up to 1921 the R.D.C. had 183 assisted and non-assisted houses completed. This number at the end of 1925 was raised to 219, with 38 in course of erection and 24 awaiting the Ministry's sanction of loan. The Yeovil Town Council have also erected 21 houses in the Rural District at Westlands. Private enterprise in house erection now exceeds the pre-war rate.

Notwithstanding the number of new houses erected during the last 5 years there is still a great need for more houses. Unfit houses cannot be closed without more being built.

Rapid locomotion is permitting several hundreds of people to still reside in the Rural District and inducing many others whose work is in the industrially developing town of Yeovil to live outside the Borough.

An increase in the need is also caused by an appreciable influx into the District of retired people (pensioners, etc.), who purchase houses of the working-class type.

*Overcrowding* still exists owing to insufficiency of houses as explained above, making it difficult to find suitable accommodation. Three cases have been dealt with.

The general standard of houses is improving, but the number of cottages unfit and beyond satisfactory repair is considerable.

Inability of many owners to carry out substantial repairs contributes to the difficulty of improving conditions. Neglect by tenants, though less prevalent, is also a contributory cause of disrepair.

Inspection of Houses during 1915 has been specially directed to keeping houses of the worst type as reasonably fit as possible. All improvements have been effected by letter or informal notice. Two houses were closed voluntarily.

No complaints have been received nor representations made respecting unhealthy areas.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the District.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under 20)	...	...	...	71
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	49
(i.) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	36
(ii). By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	13

### 1. Unfit Dwelling-houses :

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)...	...	...	...	212
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	Revisions
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	10

(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
2.	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
	Number closed by owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

**S. C. CLAPHAM, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.,**

*Medical Officer of Health,  
Yeovil Rural District Council.*



# YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT.

## Report of Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1925.

HOUSING.	R.D.C. Houses, December, 1924	...	...	...	183	
	Completed during 1925	...	...	...	36	219
	In course of erection	...	...	...	...	36
	Application for sanction	...	...	...	...	24
	PRIVATE ENTERPRISE—Subsidy Houses erected	...	...	...	...	13
	Non-assisted	...	...	...	...	22
	DISINFECTATIONS—After infection, 17. Unclean and Verminous, 5.	...	...	...	...	22
WATER SUPPLY—	Samples submitted—Public Supplies	...	...	...	...	7
	R.D.C. Housing Sites	...	...	...	...	2
	Private Wells	...	...	...	...	13
	New Wells	...	...	...	...	11
	New Boreholes	...	...	...	...	6
	Supplies laid on from Mains	...	...	...	...	12
	Wells cleansed and protected	...	...	...	...	2
DRAINS—	New, 22. Repaired, trapped, etc., 16....	...	...	...	...	38
	New W.C's., 8. E.C's., 3.	...	...	...	...	11
	Cesspool cleansing enforced	...	...	...	...	3
NUISANCES—	Complaints, 17. Remedied, 15.					
SLAUGHTER-HOUSES—	28 Licensed.					
	Unsound Meat surrendered	...	...	...	...	49
	New Floors to Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	2
MILK AND DAIRIES—	Registered Retailers only	...	...	...	7	
	Cowkeepers and Retailers	...	...	...	46	
					53	
	Cowkeepers and Wholesale Purveyors	...	...	...	344	397
	COWSTALLS—New Cowstalls	...	...	...	...	6
	New Floors and Drainage	...	...	...	...	9
	Approach Yards re-metalled	...	...	...	...	11
	Limewashing enforced	...	...	...	...	9
FACTORIES, 27. WORKSHOPS, 75. BAKEHOUSES, 27.						
	Cases dealt with—Want of cleanliness	...	...	...	...	1
	Other nuisances	...	...	...	...	3
	Failure to exhibit Extract of Act	...	...	...	...	3
HOMEWORKERS,	769.					
PETROLEUM—	Licensed Premises, 17.					

N. G. FISH.